which was presided over by the then Minister of Law and Justice and consisted of representatives of various Political Parties. The Committee favoured larger representation of women candidates for elections to the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures. And to achieve this objective, the Committee expressed the hope that the Political Parties would respond positively to this suggestion by putting up larger number of women candidates. This recommendation was accepted by the then Government.

[*Translation*]

PRE-PAID SERVICE FOR AUTO-RICKSHAWS/TAXIS

1401. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pre-paid service for auto-rickshaws and taxis is made available to the passengers at all Railway Stations and Inter State Bus Terminus in Delhi;

(b) if so, the basis for fixing the fares for various places;

(c) whether under the pre-paid service, the fare charged is by far higher than that charged ordinarily; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The pre-paid service for auto-rickshaws and taxis is made available to the passengers at both the Terminals of Indira Gandhi International Airport, Inter State Bus Terminus, New Delhi Railway Station and Nizamuddin Railway Station.

(b) The city has been divided into zones and the fare has been fixed according to zones of 3 kms distance irrespective of the exact destination/location.

(c) and (d) Because the city has been divided into a number of zones, the fares under the pre-paid service which include a service charge are slightly higher than the fares charged ordinarily.

The Delhi Police are dropping the zone system and the system of colony distance is being introduced.

[*English*]

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER NETHRAVATHI

1402. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bridge across the river Nethravathi at Panemangalore on National Highway No. 48 between Mangalore and Bangalore has over lived its life and utility;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct a new bridge there immediately providing for free pasasge of two heavy vehicles at a time; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard, so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) The existing bridge across river Nethravathi of National Highway No. 48 is narrow and weak for the present day National Highway traffic. Construction of a new two-lane bridge is therefore included in the Annual Plan 1991-92 for sanction.

[*Translation*]

DIFFICULTIES TO FARMERS IN TAKING LOANS FROM BANKS

1403. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a lot of difficulties are faced by farmers in taking loan from various banks for agriculture purposes; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to simplify the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Banks have been advised to ensure timely and adequate flow of credit to farmers for agricultural production. There has been a progressive increase in the flow of institutional credit to this sector. Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks for simplifying and liberlising lend-

ing procedures. These guidelines provide for

1. Prescription of scales of finance for crop loans as worked out by the Technical Committee constituted in the districts for various crops and their uniform adoption by banks. These scales of finance are reviewed annually to take care of escalation of cost.

2. Disposal of loan applications up to Rs. 25,000/- within fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.

3. Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to the rural Branch Managers so that majority of loan applications are sanctioned at branch level itself.

4. No collateral security should be taken by way of mortgage/charge of land or third party guarantee on crop loans up to Rs. 10,000/- and term loans up to Rs. 10,000/- where moveable assets are created.

5. No margin is required for agricultural loan up to Rs. 10,000/- for both short-term, medium/long-term loans. The rates of interest charged on such loans are concessional.

[English]

HANDING OVER OF TRAVANCORE HOUSE TO GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

1404. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4149 on 10-4-1990 and state :

(a) whether the Travancore House has since been vacated by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission;

(b) if so, whether it has been handed over to the Government of Kerala; and

(c) if not the reasons for delay and when it is likely to be handed over to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) Alternative accommodation allotted to the Commission in Kota House Annexe and Bikaner House Hutments is being repaired/renovated by C.P.W.D. The work is nearing completion. The Commission proposes to start shifting to the new premises shortly.

[Translation]

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM CASES UNDER INSURANCE SCHEMES

1405. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of insurance claim cases settled under the Personal Accident Insurance, Social Security Scheme and other insurance schemes during 1990 and 1991 till date state-wise and district-wise; and

(b) the number of persons benefited by the said schemes during the above period, state-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) There are three Social Security Schemes viz. Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme & Hut Insurance Scheme, administered by the General Insurance Corporation of India and the Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers, administered by the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The required information in respect of these Schemes is available statewise only and is given below in the statement.